

Caritas Luxembourg has been present in South Sudan since 2006, carrying out humanitarian projects, even during the Sudanese civil war. Through its main office in Torit, Caritas Luxembourg implements its projects in collaboration with local NGOs, the Diocese of Torit, local authorities, and in consultation with farmers' groups, women's groups, and other stakeholders. Activities are managed from the main office of Caritas Luxembourg-South Sudan in Torit, and monitored through an additional field office in Palotaka, Magwi County. The head office in Luxembourg provides quality assurance, financial and administrative support. Caritas Luxembourg - South Sudan employs about 35 staff members, most of whom are South Sudanese. The projects implemented by Caritas Luxembourg are currently supported by the Government of Luxembourg, FAO, WFP and private donors, among others.

Operational areas: Project areas are, for the most part, located in Eastern Equatoria State, in Magwi, Torit, Ikwoto and Kapoeta South counties. One humanitarian aid project is also implemented in Central Equatoria State, in Juba.



South Sudan remains a fragile and precarious country marked by war and hunger. As such, Caritas Luxembourg interventions range from humanitarian aid work to rehabilitation, to development projects. Projects focus mostly on **food security and agriculture, nutrition, and health**. Awareness-raising around the topics of peace-building, gender, good governance and environmental protection is also an important pillar of the organization's approach. Operations are carried out in tight collaboration with local communities and with authorities at

district and national levels, among which are the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Fisheries.

NUTRITION

Widespread **malnutrition** in South Sudan is partly a consequence of climactic factors and partly the result of decades of civil war. With a view to reducing suffering and contributing to the emergence of a healthy and active new generation, Caritas Luxembourg implements several projects to combat malnutrition. Its focus is on pregnant and lactating women and on children under the age of five. Caritas Luxembourg believes that promoting good nutrition is not only about making food available and offering treatments but also about making communities more knowledgeable about how to prevent malnutrition. To reinforce local capacities around the prevention and treatment of malnutrition, Caritas Luxembourg trains and works through a set of volunteers who detect and refer (for treatment) cases of malnutrition as early as possible, disseminate information about good hygiene and



nutrition practices, and teach women to produce highly nutritious weaning flour for use throughout the region. Growth Monitoring Volunteers, or “GMVs”, take on the screening of children and pregnant and lactating women, while Lead Mothers are responsible for sensitizing other mothers on nutritional diversity and the preparation of food supplements.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Low productivity, limited access to markets for selling agricultural products, and insufficient access to good quality and affordable seeds and other agricultural inputs are all factors contributing to a precarious food security context, even in South Sudan’s most fertile regions. In response, Caritas Luxembourg’s agricultural projects focus on building the resilience of farmers, supporting them to develop new skills (such as local seed multiplication), distributing agricultural and livestock-related inputs where necessary, and helping farmers join forces and organize themselves. Capacity building initiatives are diverse. They

cover: kitchen gardens, good agricultural practices, agro-ecological techniques, soil and water management, post-harvest management, and commercialization. Practical education sessions are held at demonstration plots created specifically for this purpose. In addition, village-level coaching is done by Extension Workers and Community Animal Health Workers trained by Caritas Luxembourg. Farmers’ organizations and cooperatives are also strengthened with the goal of allowing them to better defend their members’ interests and rights, promoting improved management of community resources, and agglomerating and taking goods to market.

HEALTH



Caritas Luxembourg is also working to reinforce several primary healthcare centers, a hospital, and their respective staff. These institutions are crucial in fulfilling the health needs of many vulnerable communities, including internally displaced individuals, pastoralists, etc. Given that access is often a barrier, Caritas Luxembourg works through outreach teams and mobile clinics as well. In response to the great gender disparities that exist in South Sudan and to the practices, such as early marriage, that are harmful to women and girls, Caritas Luxembourg places a special focus on improving access to maternal health. One of its projects focuses on the establishment of a prevention, treatment and referral centre for safe motherhood with a specialization in the repair of obstetric fistulas. At the same time, Caritas Luxembourg invests in radio

programmes and village events dedicated to increasing knowledge on key health topics, with a view to preventing malnutrition, harmful practices, and the spread of infectious diseases.

Sustainability: Capacity building activities aim at kick-starting the economic, social and environmental development of local communities. While Caritas Luxembourg prides itself in supporting the same communities in a stable and predictable manner, its main objective is to enable them to continue activities in an autonomous manner, especially beyond the project's implementation period.

Empowerment and social behavior: Caritas Luxembourg uses radio programmes and village-level workshops to disseminate messages on a variety of topics: healthy nutrition and hygiene practices, the dangers of early marriage, the importance of seeking maternal care, the benefits of agro-ecological techniques and environmental protection, peacebuilding, gender rights – among others. It also empowers local volunteers, especially women, to become local change agents. This is done through education and awareness sessions aimed at giving them knowledge and confidence. As a result, volunteers in Caritas Luxembourg's projects have become spokespersons for issues important to their communities.

Synergies across projects: Caritas Luxembourg strives to design complementary projects. For example, while some of its activities focus on supporting farmers to plant a more diverse set of crops, other activities promote the demand for varied foods among mothers of young children. In the same way, Caritas Luxembourg both supports the production of local soap by women's groups and the dissemination of good hygiene practices. The examples of how Caritas Luxembourg exploits these synergies are many and they represent the strength of the organization's approach. By working with many of the same communities over the years and in different sectors, Caritas Luxembourg is able to take a multipronged approach to helping those communities improve their living conditions.



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